Manual Scavenging

†2172. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the evil practice of manual scavenging has been completely abolished by March, 2009;

(b) whether these people have been included in other developmental schemes; and

(c) the names of primary schemes in which these people have direct participation?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Government of India implements the "Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)". The Scheme which started in January, 2007, aims at rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupation by providing them training and loan at concessional rates of interest for starting their self employment ventures. Capital subsidy of upto Rs. 20,000/- is also provided to them. In addition, all Safai Karmacharis, including manual scavengers and their dependents, are also eligible under the schemes of self employment and training of the National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation.

Urban poverty and deprivation

2173. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that with globalization of economy urbanization has increased in India and so has the poverty and deprivation in all urban areas;

(b) whether Government has analysed this trend and also the factors like migration of labour, their working conditions in urban areas;

(c) if so, the details and action taken in this regard;

(d) whether Government has analysed the gender dimensions of urban poverty; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and schemes/financial help provided to women?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Planning Commission estimates of urban poor for the years 1993-1994 and 2004-2005, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the absolute number of urban poor has increased from 76.34 million to 80.80 million during this period whereas the absolute number of rural poor has decreased from 244.03 million to 220.92 million.

(b) and (c) The Report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) brought out in August, 2007, has deeply analyzed the trends of economy and its effect

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on poor/informal sector. It reveals that in 2004-2005, out of India's total workforce of 457.5 million, 92% or 422.6 million worked in unorganized economy *i.e.* informal sector. In case of gender break-up, the figure was 90.7% for male and 95.9% for female workforce respectively.

(d) and (e) The India Urban Poverty Report 2009, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, critically analyses the gender dimension of urban poverty in one of its chapters. The report says that women in urban areas are affected due to poverty as well as gender discriminations. The analysis made in the chapter, based on data over 1993-1994 and 2004-2005, emphasizes the need for a specific focus on urban poor women, given the increasing incidence of poverty in terms of absolute numbers of poor women and their high compound growth rate. Further the Head Count Ratio (HCR) of poverty among female headed households is higher in urban areas when compared to male headed householders.

With regard to the schemes targeting women urban poor, the Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) component of the revamped Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) targets the urban poor women for assistance in setting up group enterprises as well as support in the form of revolving fund for Self-help groups/Thrift and Credit Societies for meeting their micro-credit needs. Also 30% of the beneficiaries under the Urban Self Employment Programme (targeting individual urban poor for setting up micro-enterprises) and Skill training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) components of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) must be women.

Slums in metropolitan cities

†2174. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of slums present in the metropolitan and big cities has been assessed;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) this number five years ago and what would be their number after five years; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Urban development/slum being a State subject, it is upto concerned States/cities to assess the details regarding the number of slums in metropolitan cities and big cities of the country. No such assessment about the number of slums is available with this Ministry. Data on the number of slums and other relevant details are maintained by respective States/Municipal Authorities.

Urban wage employment programme

2175. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.